

From: taylormirf@mac.com
Sent: 2/24/2012 2:22:37 PM
To: "Roy Seneca" <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: Send your Dimock questions here...

Thanks! Have a nice weekend!
Taylor

Taylor Mirfendereski
Reporter & Anchor, WOUB News
SPJ President, Ohio University
RTDNA President, Ohio University
SPJ National Board of Directors
Co-Chair, AASBJ (AAJA)
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Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2012, at 2:21 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:
I would check with Cathy Milbourn at 202-564-7849.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

From: Taylor Mirfendereski <taylormirf@mac.com>
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/24/2012 02:08 PM
Subject: Re: Send your Dimock questions here...

Thanks, Roy! Appreciate your help. Id like to ask a few questions to someone from EPA headquarters about the federal study that will not be complete until 2014. Could you recommend a contact to direct my questions to?

Taylor

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On Feb 24, 2012, at 1:49 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Taylor -- Thank you for condensing your questions. I think that the press release and statement I sent yesterday should answer most of your previous questions. Here are our responses to the two questions you sent today:

You asked: Did EPA selectively choose data on substances it was concerned about in order to reach a result it had predetermined?

Our response: This is a desk statement EPA issued in response to media inquiries about comments made by Cabot:

Since EPA announced on January 19 our plan to sample wells in Dimock, Pennsylvania, and provide alternate water supplies to four

homes, we have been clear and forthright about the basis of our actions and acknowledged that uncertainties about the data made available to the Agency existed. We acknowledged that the data available to us was incomplete and of uncertain quality, and based on this, determined the need to conduct sampling of wells. Nevertheless, there were data items that presented sufficient health concerns, leading us to offer alternate water to a handful of the residents. EPA's standard practice when conducting investigations ensures the protection of public health, as our analysis considers the highest levels to which the public may be exposed. Additional, validated data is needed to fill information gaps and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action.

You asked: Has the sampling of the approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock been complete? If so, what did the results conclude? If not, when are they expected to be complete?

Our response: EPA has collected samples thus far from 57 homes and we hope to collect samples from up to 11 more homes. We expect to begin getting validated results of the water samples during the week of March 4. Once we get those results, we will assemble data packages that we will share with homeowners. We won't be able to disclose the locations of our sampling results, but we hope to assemble summary information that we will share with interested parties.

Roy Seneca

EPA Region 3 Press Officer

Office of Public Affairs

seneca.roy@epa.gov

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From: Taylor Mirfendereski <taylormirf@mac.com>

To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/24/2012 11:48 AM

Subject: Re: Send your Dimock questions here...

Hi Roy,

I now have just two questions to be answered. Please find them below. Thanks!

In response to EPA's decision to deliver water to Dimock, Cabot Oil & Gas issued a statement: "

Cabot has reexamined the data relevant to EPA's January 2012 statement. Based on this reexamination, it appears that EPA selectively chose data on substances it was concerned about in order to reach a result it had predetermined. EPA chose to include specific data points without adequate knowledge or consideration of where or why the samples were collected, when they were taken, or the naturally occurring background levels for those substances throughout the Susquehanna County area. The end result is an unwarranted investigation and unnecessary delivery of water." Did EPA selectively choose data on substances it was concerned about in order to reach a result it had predetermined?

Has the sampling of the approximately 60 homes in the Carter Road/Meshoppen Creek Road area of Dimock been complete? If so, what did the results conclude? If not, when are they expected to be complete?

Thanks,

Taylor Mirfendereski

WOUB News

On Feb 23, 2012, at 3:05 PM, Roy Seneca wrote:

Taylor -- Sorry, but I am not going to be able to meet your deadline for Friday with answers to these specific questions. However, here is a link to our Jan. 19 press release: [EPA to Begin Sampling Water at Some Residences in Dimock, Pa.](#) and below is desk statement we issued on January 26. These should answer some of your questions and provide you with some helpful background:

EPA is in this community sampling and providing water as a direct result of requests from Dimock residents. Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law. We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern. We are conducting monitoring as a prudent step to investigate these concerns and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action. This is consistent with steps we would take in any situation where we are presented with potential health risks to citizens under the federal laws we are charged to carry out.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama made clear that he is committed to tapping America's natural gas as part of a new era in American energy. He also affirmed our commitment to

"developing this resource without putting the health and safety of our citizens at risk."

We have been clear that if we see an immediate threat to public health, we will not hesitate to take steps under the law to protect Americans whose health may be at risk. The Agency also welcomes PADEP and Cabot's participation in the sampling. Without a doubt, EPA's samples will be collected and reviewed using the highest scientific standards and we will take into account all other relevant and reliable data developed by PADEP and Cabot. The residents in Dimock deserve answers based on the facts, and we look forward to working together to meet our responsibility to this community.

Roy Seneca

EPA Region 3 Press Officer

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From: Taylor Mirfendereski <taylormirf@mac.com>

To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/23/2012 01:15 PM

Subject: Re: Send your Dimock questions here...

Thanks, Roy! Appreciate your help.

Taylor Mirfendereski

Reporter & Anchor, WOUB News

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Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 23, 2012, at 1:05 PM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Yes, we received your email and we will work on getting you some answers. -- Roy

Roy Seneca

EPA Region 3 Press Officer

Office of Public Affairs

seneca.roy@epa.gov

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From: Taylor Mirfendereski <taylormirf@mac.com>

To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Cc: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/23/2012 10:50 AM

Subject: Re: Send your Dimock questions here...

Hi Roy,

Thanks for agreeing to answer my questions about the situation in Dimock, PA. They are below.

Please confirm that you received this e-mail and are still able to assist me.

Thanks!

Taylor

Taylor Mirfendereski

Reporter & Anchor, WOUB News

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What prompted the EPA's decision to deliver fresh drinking water to residents in Dimock, PA?

How was the decision made?

Why did the EPA decide to get involved?

When did the EPA get involved?

When did the EPA start delivering water? How long is this expected to continue?

How many homes in Dimock, PA had their water sampled? On what roads?

What chemicals were found in the homes that received water?

What levels of the chemicals were found in the homes?

What harmful effects could these chemicals have to those who are exposed?

Did the EPA test water in cities other than Dimock? (ie: Bradford County) If so, what did you find? If not, do you have the intention of testing homes in that county?

Why didn't all homes with contaminated water get fresh water delivered? (ie: the home of Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy and Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy on Carter Road)

How many water wells in Dimock were affected by the drilling? How many wells were fauled by stray methane gas from Cabot's drilling operation.

Is the sampling complete?

If a person's well contains methane, what precautions should they take?

Has the contaminated water caused any health risks?

What steps is the EPA taking to ensure that Pennsylvania residents have access to safe drinking water?

Has the EPA determined whether or not water contamination is linked to fracking?

On Feb 16, 2012, at 11:19 AM, Roy Seneca <Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov> wrote:

Taylor -- I hope you have a safe trip and good luck with your interviews. Please email your questions to me and my supervisor Terri White. Thank you.

Roy Seneca

EPA Region 3 Press Officer

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Taylor Mirfendereski

All-Platform Journalist

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